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CONTENTS

Finland: The liberal wing may take over the Finnish Communist Party at the 15th congress later this week.
(Page 4)

Ghana: Political indiscretion (Page 6)

25X1

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Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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Finland: The take-over of the Finnish Communist Party by its liberal wing, which began in 1966, may be completed at the 15th congress later this week.

Of the 479 delegates to the congress opening on 3 April, 267 are considered to be in the liberal camp, 202 in the conservative camp, and ten are unaligned. With a majority of the delegates, the liberals are confident that they will be able to push through a new version of the party program calling for a peaceful transition to socialism and a multiparty system. The liberals' draft by-laws call for direct election of party officials and executive bodies by the party congress. Changes in the by-laws, however, require a two-thirds vote of the congress, and, barring a conservative walkout, they are not likely to pass at this time.

The big stumbling block is the liberals' plan to purge the party of conservative obstructors in the leadership. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) has made clear that it will not tolerate the removal of "internationally significant" personnel, such as Ville Pessi, who has been party secretary since 1944. Pessi presents himself as the leader of the "center faction" and has been recognized as such by the CPSU, but this faction is made up largely of party bureaucrats with no strength outside headquarters.

The final balance of power at the congress and the tactics of the liberals will probably depend on the attitude of the CPSU as revealed in consultations between the two parties, which began in Moscow on 26 March. Should the liberals hold their own in Moscow and subsequently carry the day in Helsinki, the Finnish party may become one of the most liberal in the Communist movement.

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Ghana: Colleagues of General Ankrah, chairman of the ruling National Liberation Council (NLC), have discovered that he has solicited funds from businessmen for political purposes. In order to keep the NLC intact, however, Ankrah is apparently being allowed to stay on.

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The episode has reduced the politically ambitious Ankrah to a figurehead within the present regime and has damaged his prospects for heading any successor civilian regime.

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